

Message Text

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SUBJ: COMPULSORY PILOTAGE REGULATIONS AT JIDDA REINFORCED

1. DR. FAYEZ BADR, PRESIDENT OF THE SAUDI PORTS AUTHORITY, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING CIRCULAR RE SUBJECT ON JANUARY 14, 1978.

QUOTE: ARTICLE 24 CHAPTER 2 SECTION THREE OF SEA PORT AND LIGHT HOUSE LAWS ISSUED UNDER THE ROYAL DECREE NUMBER M/24 OF 24-6-1394 AH. STIPULATES THAT PILOTAGE IS COMPULSORY AGAINST THE PAYMENT OF FIXED FEES, FOR ALL SHIPS ENTERING THE PILOTAGE ZONE, OR SAILING INSIDE THE SEA PORT OR LEAVING THE SEA PORT. A NUMBER OF MASTERS OF VESSELS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE CONTRAVENING THIS LAW. AS A RESULT IN SOME CASES SERIOUS ACCIDENTS HAVE CAUSED LOSSES OF LIFE AND TEMPORARY BLOCKAGE OF THE NIVIGATIONAL CHANNELS OF THE PORT.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE AGAINST ANY FUTURE VIOLATIONS THAT MAY HAZARD THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM PORTS IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT A VERY SERIOUS VIEW SHALL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE MASTER/VESSELS VIOLATING THE ABOVE MENTIONED SEA PORT AND LIGHT HOUSE LAW.

UNDER THE ROYAL DECEREE MENTIONED ABOVE AND COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S RESOLUTION NO. 934 OF 19-6-1394 AH. ANY MASTER / VESSEL CONTRAVENING THE ABOVE REGULATIONS BY PROCEEDING UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHOUT A PILOT IN THE PILOTAGE ZONE, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANY OR ALL THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES:

- A) FINE UPTO FIFTY THOUSAND SAUDI RIYASLS.
- B) PREVENTING THE VESSEL FROM UNLOADING OR DELAYING ITS SAILING FOR A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK.
- C) DEBARRING THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL ENTERING THE KINGDOM PORTS IN CHARGE OF ANY VESSEL FOR A PERIOD OF

NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS, AND TO ANNOUNCE HIS VIOLATION
TO ALL SHIPPING COMPANIES, SHIPPING CONFERENCE AND PORTS.

D) ENDORSEMENT ON THE MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IF HE IS A
SAUDI NATIONAL AND TO PREVENT HIM FROM WORKING ON BOARD
ANY VESSEL FOR A PERIOD NOT LESS THAN SIX MONTHS.

E) THE MASTER/VESSEL/OWNER/CHARTERER SHALL BE HELD LIABLE
FOR ALL COSTS, LOSSES, DAMAGES, ANY CONSEQUENTIAL CHARGES
INCURRED BY THE PORT ON ACCOUNT OF VIOLATIONS MENTIOND
ABOVE.

THIS CIRCULAR DOES NOT APPLY TO VESSELS EXEMPED FROM
PILOTAGE AS MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 26 CHAPTER 2 SECTION
THREE OF PORT AND LIGHT HOUSE LAWS, END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT : DURING THE HEAVY PORT TRAFFIC IN THE
PRECEDING TWO YEARS, MANY SHIP CAPTAINS
NEGLECTED USING PORT PILOTAGE WHICH COULD
TAKE DAYS TO ARRANGE. THE PRACTICE HAS CONTINUED
DESPITE CONSIDERABLE EASING OF TRAFFIC. ACTUALLY, THE
PORT OF JIDDA NOW HAS EXPERIENCED EMPTY BERTH SITUATIONS.
ABOVE REINFORCEMENT OF LAWS REFLECTS RETURN TO NORMALCY
AT PORT. THE TYPE OF VESSESL EXEMPT FROM PILOTAGE ARE
SMALL YACHTS AND PLEASURE BOATS REGISTERED IN SAUDI ARABIA
AND SAUDI COST GUARD VESSELS ACCORDING TO PORT OFFICIAL.
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